CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication:	187
Other known title(s):	Not stated
OFLC ref:	1700390.008
Medium:	Computer Image File
Publisher:	Not stated
Country of origin:	Not stated
Language:	Not applicable
Applicant:	Commissioner of Police
Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.
Descriptive note:	None
Display conditions:	None
Date of entry in Register:	14 August 2017
Date of direction to issue a label:	No direction to issue a label has been issued
Date of notice of decision:	14 August 2017

Summary of reasons for decision:

The image file depicts iconic cartoon characters, one of whom is a dog, involved in sexual conduct. The image file does not meet the high threshold of tending to promote or support bestiality. It is unlikely to be sexually arousing to most viewers. However, due to its sexual nature a restriction on its availability is still required. The likelihood of harm to adults is limited by the obviously contrived and unrealistic nature of the image and its intended purpose as taboo-breaking humour. While adults are likely to dismiss these elements as relatively innocuous, the nature of the publication is likely cause harm to younger viewers. Children and teenagers do not have the maturity or experience to deal with this type of sexual humour and they are less likely to understand its satirical intent. This may have a negative effect on their sexual development. A restriction limiting the availability of the publications to adults therefore reduces the likelihood of injury to the public good. The classification of the image files interferes with the right to freedom of expression contained in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 but, given the sexual content of the image and the use of bestiality for the purpose of humour, the decision is a reasonable and demonstrably justified limitation on its availability.